

Message Text

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S/S:MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

S E C R E T STATE 202915

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT LISBON 4849 ACTION SECSTATE 25 AUGUST 75.

QUOTE

S E C R E T LISBON 4849

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: AZORES INDEPENDENCE

REF: (A) STATE 194642 (B) LISBON 4777

1. DATT HAS BEEN REGULARLY IN CONTACT WITH FLA LEADER VASCO LIMA. I HAD INSTRUCTED BLACKLEY TO CONVEY OUR POLICY PER REFTEL TO VASCO LIMA. VASCO LIMA INDICATED SOME DOUBTS DUE TO OTHER INFORMATION COMING FROM WASHINGTON. I THEREFORE MET WITH VASCO LIMA THIS MORNING AND EXPLAINED OUR POLICY IN STRONGEST TERMS.

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2. VASCO LIMA SAID THERE WERE THREE GROUPS OUTSIDE THE AZORES

HELPING TO COORDINATE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT: ONE IN THE CANARIES, ONE IN THE UNITED STATES AND ONE IN LISBON. AT TOP LEVEL OF LATTER WAS MOTA AMARAL WHO HAD RELATED TO HIM MY CONVERSATION OF LAST THURSDAY (REFTEL B). WHAT I HAD SAID TO MOTA AMARAL MADE A GREAT DEAL OF SENSE TO THE LISBON FLA GROUP; HOWEVER JOSE ALMEIDA WHO HEADED THE GROUP IN THE U.S. WAS SENDING MESSAGES TO THE EFFECT THAT USG SUPPORTED IMMEDIATE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. LIMA DID NOT KNOW FROM WHOM JOSE ALMEIDA HAD RECEIVED THIS WORD.

3. LIMA SAID JOSE ALMEIDA MESSAGES WERE CAUSING EXTREME CONFUSION AMONG FLA WHICH WAS NOW BADLY DIVIDED. LISBON GROUP FAVORED OUR POLICY OF GIVING MELO ANTUNES A CHANCE (LIMA SIAD HE IS A RELATIVE VASCO GONCALVES AND LEARNED FROM FAMILY SOURCES THAT VASCO HAD FINALLY AGREED TO RESIGN). SOME OF THEM EVEN CONTEMPLATED ASKING ME TO HAVE JOSE ALMEIDA'S VISA CANCELLED SINCE HE WAS CAUSING UNNECESSARY PROBLEMS.

4. AS I HAVE REPORTED, ANY AZOREAN MOVE RIGHT NOW WILL COMPLETELY UNDERCUT MELO ANTUNES' GROUPS EFFORTS AND CAUSE US SEVERE PROBLEMS. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT A DECISION MEETING IS TO TAKE PLACE BY FLA IN AZORES WITHIN THREE DAYS. REQUEST DEPARTMENT URGENTLY CONTACT JOSE ALMEIDA AND FORCEFULLY EXPLAIN TO HIM OUR POLICY AT A LEVEL SUFFICIENTLY HIGH THAT HE WILL TAKE IT SERIOUSLY.

5. A PRESS BACKGROUNDER MAKING OUR POSITION CLEAR WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL. CARE WOULD OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO BE TAKEN IN SUCH A BACKGROUNDER TO AVOID EMBRACING MELO ANTUNES,

PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF TODAYS RENEWED COMMIE EFFORTS TO LINK ME TO THE MELO ANTUNES GROUP (BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL). CARLUCCI UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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NNN

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